

Application No. 10/663,960
Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. 1.312 dated November 23, 2004
Reply to Notice of Allowance of September 23, 2004

REMARKS

Status Of Application

Claims 1-22 are allowed.

Examiner's Reasons for Allowance

The Applicant would like to point out that the substance of the claimed invention, which is patentable over the cited prior art, is not limited to an apparatus where the novel aspherical surface (*the fovea-type lens*) mentioned by the examiner is situated on “the most object-side lens surface of a taking lens included therein.” The invention does not require such a limitation. Rather, some claims, such as claim 1, are directed to a highly-preferred embodiment incorporating this limitation. Other claims, such as claim 10, are directed more broadly toward lens systems incorporating the novel aspherical surface anywhere within the front lens unit. Accordingly, the Applicant considers the nature of the aspherical surface itself, incorporated into a lens system, to be sufficiently novel to support patentability, with or without the additional limitation.

Paragraphs [0008], [0022] and [0057] in the specification are amended to correct clerical errors therein. The changes do not introduce any new matter.

This Amendment is being presented promptly after the discovery of the need therefor. This Amendment does not affect the scope of the claims, does not introduce any new matter, does not present any new issue, does not require any additional search, and will not present an undue burden on the personnel of the Patent and Trademark Office. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Amendment be entered in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.312.

This Amendment does not increase the number of independent claims, does not increase the total number of claims, and does not present any multiple dependency claims.

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Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. However, if a fee, other than the issue fee, is due, please charge this fee to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

Respectfully submitted,

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